

products, forestry-related jobs, production of renewable energy, wildlife and wildlife habitat, and recreation. The House bill requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress describing how funding has been used under the CFAA, and through other programs administered by the Secretary, to address the three national priorities. (Section 8001)

The Senate amendment amends section 2 of the CFAA by adding a new subsection which requires the Secretary to focus on a set of three national private forest conservation priorities when allocating appropriated CFAA funds. The national priorities are: (1) conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses; (2) protecting forests from threats to forest and forest health including unnaturally large wildfires, hurricanes, tornadoes, windstorms, snow and ice storms, flooding, drought, invasive species, insect or disease outbreak, development, and restoring appropriate forest structures and ecological processes in response to such threats; and (3) enhancing public benefits from private forests including air and water quality, forest products, forest-related jobs, production of renewable energy, wildlife, enhancing biodiversity, the establishment of wildlife corridors and habitat, and recreation. The Senate amendment amends section 2 of the CFAA by adding a new subsection that requires the Secretary to submit a report to Congress describing how CFAA funds were used to address the three national priorities and the outcomes achieved in meeting the national priorities. (Section 8001)

The Conference substitute adopts the House provision with minor changes. (Section 8001)

*(2) Long-term, state-wide assessments and strategies for forest resources*

The House bill amends section 2 of the CFAA by adding a new section that requires, for a State to be eligible to receive CFAA funds, that the State forester—or equivalent State official—develop and submit a State-wide assessment of forest resource conditions and a State-wide forest resource strategy. The State-wide assessment of forest conditions is to encompass a number of factors, including: the conditions and trends of forest resources in the State; the threats to forest lands and resources in the State, consistent with the three national priorities; any priority areas or regions in a State that are of priority; and any areas that are of priority to more than just that State. The State-wide forest resource strategy is to encompass a number of factors, including: strategies for addressing threats to forest resources in the State outlined in the State-wide assessment of forest conditions; and a description of the resources available to the State forester—or equivalent State official—from all sources to implement the State-wide forest resource strategy. The State forester—or equivalent State official—is required to submit the State-wide forest resource strategy on an annual basis. The State-wide assessment of forest resource conditions is to be updated as the Secretary or State forester—or equivalent State official—determines to be necessary. The State forester—or equivalent State official—is required in developing the State wide assessment and annual strategy, to coordinate with the State Forest Stewardship Committee established for the State, the State wildlife agency, and the State Technical Committee. The Secretary is prohibited from using more than \$10 million in a fiscal year to implement this section. (Section 8002)

The Senate amendment amends the CFAA by inserting after section 19 a new section entitled “Comprehensive Statewide Forest Planning” under which requires Secretary to provide financial and technical assistance to States for use in the development and implementation of statewide forest resource assessments and plans. For a State to be eligible for CFAA funding, the State forester or equivalent State official must develop a statewide forest resource assessment and plan. At a minimum, the statewide forest resource assessment and plan should identify each critical forest resource in the State consistent with national priorities; incorporate any current forest management plan in the State; address the needs of the region without regard to State borders; provide a comprehensive statewide plan for managing forestland that achieves the three national priorities; and include a multiyear forest management strategy for forest management. The statewide forest resource and plan should include a multiyear integrated forest management strategy. The State Forester—or equivalent State official—is required to coordinate with the State Forest Stewardship Coordination Committee, State wildlife agencies, the State Technical Committee and other applicable Federal land management agencies in developing statewide assessments and plans. Subsection (b)(3) requires the Secretary to review the statewide assessments and plans established under this section. Subsection (d) authorizes \$10,000,000 to be appropriated to carryout this section. (Section 8004)

The Managers adopt the House provision in the Conference substitute with amendment. The amendment allows Secretary to require the long term State-wide assessment and strategy to be updated and resubmitted as the Secretary or State Forester or equivalent State official determines necessary. The Managers expect that the assessments and strategies will guide the annual allocation of federal resources available under the authorities of the CFAA, to focus such resources on national priorities. In developing and updating the State-wide assessments and strategies, applicable Federal land management agencies are added to the list of organizations with which the State forester or equivalent State official are expected to coordinate. Existing forest management plans of the State are to be incorporated when developing State-wide assessments and strategies. The Conference amendment authorities up to \$10,000,000 to provide States financial and technical assistance needed for the development of the assessments and strategies under this section. The Conference amendment requires the State forester— or equivalent State official—to submit an annual report to the Secretary demonstrating how federal resources under the CFAA were used to implement the state-wide strategy. (Section 8002)

The Managers intend that Multi-State areas that are a regional priority should reflect areas identified at both the national and state level through assessment and mapping efforts. The Managers recognize that there is a national assessment and mapping effort underway and encourage consideration be given to multi-state areas identified in this effort.

### *(3) Community forest and open space program*

The Senate amendment amends the CFAA by adding a new section, 7A, entitled “Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program.” The program provides Federal matching grants to help county or local governments, Indian tribes, or non-profit organizations acquire private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses